

U.S. Application No. 09/863,044
Reply to Office Action dated July 31, 2006

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PATENT
450100-03235

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being submitted to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-17, 19-44, and 46-54 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 28, which are independent, are hereby amended. Support for this Amendment is provided through the Specification as originally filed, and specifically on page 27.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-5, 7-17, 19-22, 26-32, 34-44, 46-49, and 53-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,801,713 to Yagawa et al. (hereinafter, merely "Yagawa") in view of WO 92/22983 to Browne et al. (hereinafter, merely "Browne").

Claims 6, 23-25, 33, and 50-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Yagawa in view of Browne and further in view of U.S. Patent No 5,999,691 to Takagi et al. (hereinafter, merely "Takagi"). (Applicants respectfully assume that the Examiner meant to indicate "claim 33" in place of "claim 35.")

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As understood by Applicants, Yagawa relates to a support method for helping the user find a desired program from a collection of recorded television programs.

As understood by Applicants, Browne relates to an audio/video recorder system which receives a plurality of transmission signals each containing program information and simultaneously stores the received transmission signals. The system can be controlled by user input to allow for automatic recording of selected programs simultaneously input from multiple sources, reconfiguration of stored programs, and routing of stored programs to selected outputs.

As understood by Applicants, Takagi relates to a television receiver comprising a tuner; a data storage device for storing the video signal received by the tuner; a select circuit for selecting and outputting one of the reproduced video signals; and a control circuit for controlling the data storage device and the select circuit in response to an external input signal.

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Applicants' representative conducted a telephonic interview with Examiner on October 25, 2006, in which Examiner indicated that the present claim 1 would be patentable over the applied combination of Yagawa and Browne, and that the present claim 1 is therefore allowable.

That is, claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"... wherein time base for display of each virtual channel is advancing independently on each virtual channel even for the period of time when other virtual channels are selected." (Emphasis added)

Examiner agreed that nothing exists in Yagawa, Browne, or Takagi, taken alone or in combination, that would teach or suggest the above-identified feature of claim 1. Specifically, Examiner agreed that the cited references fail to teach or suggest that time base for

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display of each virtual channel advances independently on each virtual channel for the period of time when other virtual channels are selected, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

Independent claim 28 is similar, or somewhat similar, in scope, and is therefore patentable for similar, or somewhat similar, reasons.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above, and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portion(s) of the reference(s) providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

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Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance
and request early passage to issue of the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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